

# TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON HIGH COST OF LIVING

Washington, Aug. 8.—In his address on the high cost of living to the joint session of Congress today, President Wilson said:

Gentlemen of the Congress: I have sought this opportunity to address you because it is clearly my duty to call your attention to the present cost of living and to urge upon you with all the persuasive force of which I am capable the legislative measures which would be most effective in controlling it and bringing it down.

The prices the people of this country are paying for everything that is necessary for them to live are in a short time not justified by the shortage in supply, either present or prospective, and are in many cases artificially and deliberately created by vicious practices which ought immediately to be checked by law.

They constitute a burden upon us which is the most unbearable because we know that it is willfully imposed by those who have the power, and that it can, by vigorous public action, be greatly lightened and made to square with the actual conditions of supply and demand. Some of the methods by which these prices are produced are already illegal, some of them criminal, and those who employ them will be energetically prosecuted, but others have not yet been brought under the law and should be dealt with at once by legislation.

I need not recite the particulars of this critical matter. The prices demanded and paid at the sources of supply, at the factory, at the market, at the shops in the restaurants and hotels, are alike in the city and in the village. They are familiar to you. They are the talk of every domestic circle and of every group of casual acquaintances even.

It is matter of familiar knowledge, also that a process has set in which is likely, unless something is done, to push prices and rents and the whole cost of living higher and yet higher, in a vicious circle to which there is no logical or natural end.

With the increase in the prices of the necessities of life, come demands which are justified if there be no other means of enabling men to live. Upon the increase of wages there follows close an increase in the price of the products whose producers have been accorded the increase—not a proportionate increase for the manufacturer does not content himself with that—but an increase considerably greater than the added wage cost, and for which the added wage cost is oftentimes hardly more than an excuse.

The laborers who do not get an increase in pay when they demand it are likely to strike, and the strike only makes matters worse. It checks production. If it affects the railways, it prevents distribution and strips the markets, so that there is presently nothing to buy, and there is another excessive addition to prices resulting from the scarcity.

These are facts and forces with which we have become only too familiar, but we are not justified, because of our familiarity with them or because of any hasty and shallow conclusion that they are "natural" and inevitable, in sitting idly by and letting them work their fatal results if there is anything we can do to check, control or reverse them. I have sought this opportunity to inform the Congress what the Executive is doing by way of remedy and control, and to suggest where effectively legal remedies are lacking and may be supplied.

We must, I think, frankly admit that there is no complete, immediate remedy to be had from legislation and executive action. The free processes of supply and demand will not operate of themselves and no legislative or executive action can force them into full and normal operation until there is peace.

There is now neither peace nor war. All the world is waiting—with what unwearying fears and haunting doubts who can adequately say?—in a peace in which each nation shall make shift for itself as it can, or a peace buttressed and supported by the will and consent of the nations that have the purpose and the power to do so and to enforce what is right.

Politically, socially, the world is on the operating table, and it has not been possible to administer any anesthetic. It is conscious. It even watches the capital operation upon which it knows that its hope of health and life depends, and cannot think its business out or make plans or give intelligent and provident direction to its affairs while in such a case. Where there is no peace of mind there can be no energy in endeavor. There can be no confidence in industry, no confidence in credit, no confident buying or systematic selling, no certain prospect of employment, no hopeful attempt at reconstruction or the proper reestablishing of the disturbed elements of enterprise until peace has been established and so far as may be guaranteed.

Our national life has no doubt been less radically disturbed and dismembered than the life of the nations of Europe, and yet the war has more directly affected, with all its terrible ravaging and destructive force, but it has been, nevertheless, profoundly affected and disarranged and our industries, our credits, our productive capacity, our economic processes are inextricably interwoven with those of other nations and peoples—most intimately of all with the nations and peoples upon whom the chief burden and confusion of the war fell, and who are now most dependent upon the co-operation of the world.

We are just now shipping more goods out of our ports to foreign markets than we ever shipped before—not foodstuffs merely but stuffs and materials of every sort, but this is no index of what our foreign sales will continue to be, or of the effect the volume of our exports will have on supplies and prices.

It is impossible yet to predict how far or how long foreign purchasers will be able to find the money or credit to pay for our exports, or how much of our foreign sales will be on such a scale, how soon or so what extent foreign manufacturers can resume their former production, foreign farmers get their accu-

tomed crops from their own fields, foreign mines resume their former output, foreign merchants set up again their old machinery of trade with the ends of the earth.

All these things must remain uncertain until peace is established and the nations of the world have concerted the methods by which normal life and industry are to be restored. All that we shall do, in the meantime, to restrain profiteering and put the life of our people upon a tolerable footing will be makeshift and provisional.

There can be no settled conditions here or elsewhere until the treaty of peace is out of the way and the work of liquidating the war has become the chief concern of our government and of the governments of the world. Until then business will inevitably remain speculative and away now this way and again that, with heavy losses or heavy gains as it may chance, and the consumer must take care of both the gains and the losses. There can be no peace prices so long as our whole financial and economic system is on a war basis.

Europe will not, cannot recoup her capital or put her restless, distracted peoples to work until she knows exactly where she stands in respect of her four years' losses. She will have the chief question upon which her quietude of mind and confidence of purpose depend. While there is any possibility that the peace terms may be changed or may be held long in suspense or may not be decided at all, she will have no peace prices. Wheat shipments and credits to facilitate the purchase of our wheat can and will be limited and controlled in such a way as not to raise but rather to lower the price of four years' losses. The Government has the power, within certain limits, to regulate that.

We cannot deny wheat to foreign peoples who are in dire need of it, and we do not wish to do so; but fortunately, though the wheat crop of four years' losses is not abundant if handled with provident care. The price of wheat is lower in the United States than in Europe and can with proper management be kept so.

By way of immediate relief, surplus stocks of both food and clothing in the hands of the government will be sold, and, of course, sold at prices at which there is no profit. And by way of a more permanent correction of prices surplus stocks in private hands will be drawn out of storage and put upon the market. Fortunately, under the terms of the food control act the hoarding of foodstuffs can be checked and prevented; and they will be, with the greatest energy.

Foodstuffs can be drawn out of storage and sold by legal action which the Department of Justice will institute wherever necessary; but so soon as the situation is systematically dealt with it is not likely that the courts will have to be resorted to. Much of the accumulating of stocks has no doubt been due to the sort of speculation which always results from uncertainty. Great surpluses were accumulated because it was impossible to foresee what the market would do, and dealers were determined to be ready for whatever might happen, as well as eager to reap the full advantage of rising prices. They will now see the disadvantage, as well as the danger, of holding on from the new process of distribution.

Some very interesting and significant facts with regard to stocks on hand and the rise of prices in the face of abundance have been disclosed by the inquiry of the Department of Labor and the Federal Trade Commission. They seem to justify the statement that in the case of many necessary commodities effective means have been found to prevent the normal operation of the law of supply and demand.

Disregarding the surplus stocks in the hands of the Government, there was a greater supply of foodstuffs in this country on June 1 of this year than at the same date last year. In the combined total of a number of the most important foods in dry and cold storage the excess is quite 19 per cent. And yet prices have risen.

The supply of fresh eggs on hand at the same date last year was greater by nearly 10 per cent than the supply on hand at the same time last year, and yet the wholesale price was 40 cents a dozen as against 30 cents a year ago.

The stock of frozen fowls had increased more than 228 per cent, and yet the price had risen also, from 34½ cents per pound to 37½ cents. The supply of creamery butter had increased 128 per cent, and the price from 41 to 43 cents per pound.

The supply of salt beef had been augmented 3 per cent, and the price had gone up from \$34 a barrel to \$36 a barrel. Canned corn had increased in stock nearly 92 per cent, and had remained substantially the same in price. In a few foodstuffs the prices had declined, but in nothing like the proportion in which the supply had increased.

For example, the stock of canned tomatoes had increased 102 per cent, and yet the price had declined only 25 cents per dozen case. In some cases there had been the usual result of an increase of price following a decrease of supply, but in almost every instance the increase of price had been disproportionate to the decrease in stock.

Attorney-General has been making a careful study of the situation as a whole and of the laws that can be applied to better it and is convinced that under the stimulation and temptation of exceptional circumstances combinations of producers and combinations of traders have been formed for the control of supplies and of prices which are clearly in restraint of trade, and against these prosecutions will be promptly instituted and actively pushed which will in all likelihood have a prompt corrective effect.

There is reason to believe that the prices of leather, of coal, of lumber

and of textiles have been materially affected by forms of concert and co-operation among the producers and marketers of these and other universally necessary commodities which it will be possible to redress.

No watchful or energetic effort will be spared to accomplish this necessary result. I trust that there will not be many cases in which prosecution will be necessary. Public opinion will no doubt cause many who have perhaps unwittingly adopted illegal methods to abandon them promptly and of their own motion.

And publicity can accomplish a great deal. The purchaser can often take care of himself if he knows the facts and influences he is dealing with and purchasers are not disinclined to do anything, either singly or collectively, that may be necessary for their self-protection. The Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor and the Federal Trade Commission can do a great deal toward supplying the public, systematically and at short intervals, with information regarding the actual supply of particular commodities that is in existence, available, and with regard to places which are in existence but not available because of hoarding, and with regard to the methods of price fixing which are being used by dealers in certain foodstuffs and other necessities.

There can be little doubt that retailers are in part—sometimes in large part—responsible for exorbitant prices; and it is quite practicable for the Government, through the agencies I have mentioned, to supply the public with full information as to the prices at which retailers buy and as to the costs of transportation they pay, in order that it may be known just what margin of profit they are demanding. Opinion and concerted action on the part of purchasers can probably do the rest.

That is, those agencies may perform this indispensable service provided the Congress will supply them with the necessary funds to prosecute their inquiries and keep their price lists up to date. Hitherto the appropriation committees of the houses have not always, I fear, seen the full value of these inquiries, and the departments and commissions have very much straitened for means to render this service.

That adequate funds be provided by appropriation for this purpose, and provided as promptly as possible, is one of the means of greatly ameliorating the present distressing conditions of living food that I have come to use, in this attempt to cope with you the best ways to serve the country in this emergency. It is one of the absolutely necessary means, underlying many others, and can be supplied at once.

There are many other ways. Existing law is inadequate. There are many perfectly legitimate methods by which the government can exercise restraint and guidance. Let me urge, in the first place, that the present food control act should be extended both as to the period of time during which it shall remain in operation and as to the commodities to which it shall apply. Its provisions against hoarding should be made to apply not only to food but also to foodstuffs, to fuel, to clothing, and to many other commodities which are indispensably necessities of life.

As it stands now it is limited in operation to the period of the war and becomes inoperative upon the formal proclamation of peace. But I should judge it was clearly within the constitutional power of the Congress to make similar permanent provisions and regulations with regard to all goods destined for interstate commerce and to exclude them from interstate shipment if the requirements of the law are not complied with.

Some such regulation is imperatively necessary. The abuses that have grown up in the manipulation of prices by the withholding of foodstuffs and other necessities of life cannot otherwise be effectively prevented. There can be no doubt of either the necessity or the legitimacy of such measures.

May I not call attention to the fact also that although the present act prohibits profiteering, the prohibition is accompanied by no penalty. It is in violation of the public interest that a penalty should be provided which will be persuasive.

To the same end I earnestly recommend, in the second place, that the Congress pass a law regulating cold storage as it is regulated, for example, by the laws of the State of New Jersey, which limit the time during which goods may be kept in storage, prescribe the method of disposing of them if kept beyond the permitted period, and require that goods released from storage shall in all cases bear the date of their receipt.

It would materially add to the serviceability of the law, for the purpose of which we now have in view, if it prescribed that all goods released from storage for interstate shipment should have plainly marked upon each package the selling or market price at which they went into storage. By this means the purchaser would always be able to learn what profits stood between him and the producer or the wholesale dealer.

It would serve as a useful example to the other communities of the country, as well as greatly relieve local distress, if the Congress were to regulate all such matters very fully for the District of Columbia, where its legislative authority is without limit. I would also recommend that it be required that all goods destined for interstate commerce should, in every case where their form or package makes it possible, be plainly marked with the price at which they left the hands of the producer. Such a requirement would bear a close analogy to certain provisions of the Pure Food Act by which it is required that certain detailed information be given on the labels of packages of foods and drugs.

And it does not seem to me that we can confine ourselves to detailed measures of this kind, if it is indeed our purpose to assume national control of the processes of distribution. I take it for granted that that is our purpose and our duty. Nothing less will suffice.

We need not hesitate to handle a national question in a national way. We should go beyond the measures I have suggested. We should formulate

a law requiring a Federal license of all corporations engaged in interstate commerce and embodying in the license, or in the conditions under which it is to be issued, specific regulations designed to secure competitive selling and prevent unconscionable profits in the method of marketing. Such a law would afford a welcome opportunity to effect other much needed reforms in the business of interstate shipment and in the methods of corporations which are engaged in it; but for the moment I confine my recommendations to the object immediately in hand, which is to lower the cost of living.

May I not add that there is a bill pending before the Congress which, if passed, would do much to stop speculation and to bring the business of promotion by which our people are annually fleeced of many millions of hard earned money. I refer to the measure proposed by the Capital Issues Committee for the control of security issues. It is a measure formulated by men who know the actual conditions of business, and its adoption would serve a great and beneficial purpose.

We are dealing, gentlemen of the Congress, need hardly say, with very critical and very difficult matters. We should go forward with confidence along the road we see, but we should also seek to comprehend the whole of the situation which we are facing. There is no ground for some of the fearful forecasts I hear uttered about me, but the condition of the world is unquestionably very grave and we should face it comprehendingly.

The situation of our own country is exceptionally fortunate. We of all peoples can afford to keep our heads and to determine upon moderate and sensible courses of action which will insure the peace and well-being of our people. We are not, as some deep thinkers which are working such deep unhappiness for some of the distressed nations on the other side of the sea. But we may be involved in their distresses unless we help, and help with energy and intelligence.

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trains leaders of organized labor will presently yield to a sober second thought and, like the great mass of their associates, think and act like true Americans. They will see that strikes undertaken at this critical time are certain to make matters worse—not better—worse for them and for everybody else.

The worst time, the most fatal thing that can be done now is to stop or interrupt the production or to interfere with the distribution of goods by the railways and the shipping of the country. We are all involved in the distressing result of the high cost of living and we must unite, not divide, to correct it. There are many things that ought to be corrected in the relations between capital and labor in respect of wages and conditions of labor and other things even more far reaching, and I for one am ready to go into conference about these matters with any group of my fellow countrymen who know what they are talking about and are willing to remedy existing conditions by frank counsel rather than by violent contest.

No remedy is possible while men are in a temper, and there can be no settlement which does not have as its motive and standard the general interest of the nation and the insistence upon the interest of a single class make settlement impossible.

I believe, as I have hitherto had occasion to say to the Congress, that the industry and life of our people and of the world will suffer irreparable damage if employers and workmen are to go on in a perpetual contest as antagonists. They must, on one plan or another, be effectively associated. Have we not steadiness and self-possession and business sense and great and triumphant by making ourselves a united force in the life of the world. It will not then have looked to us for leadership in vain.

## Five Packers To Face Federal Court In Chicago

(Continued From Page Two) ready in possession of Department of Justice officials. The Attorney-General now has a balance of nearly \$100,000, under an appropriation which became available July 1, for collecting evidence against profiteers and it is expected that more will be appropriated by Congress in the near future.

In a letter which Attorney-General Palmer sent to all Federal attorneys these instructions were given: "You are directed to immediately employ all the facilities at your command and make use of all available sources of information to seek out all dealers guilty of hoarding within the meaning of the act and to ascertain if in any other respect these provisions of the Food Control Act have been violated in your district. Please proceed with promptness and diligence to make a thorough investigation of conditions in your district with respect to possible violations of this law and of the anti-trust laws, and when the evidence warrants see that arrest is made without further instructions."

Wilson to Broaden Message. President Wilson, going before Congress at 4 P. M. tomorrow with his high cost of living message, plans to include extension of food control legislation to include other commodities, it was learned today.

The President's message is practically completed and is being revised before it is sent to the printers. Mr. Wilson hopes, it was said, to have laws passed greatly extending the authority of the Federal Government to cope with the whole living cost situation.

The President wishes also, it was hinted, to have measures passed designed to reach the smallest individual profiteer. This is thought probable, would reach the retailer who extorts an excessive profit. Carrying out this program, it was said, would require enactment of three or four additional laws by Congress.

## NEW HAVEN P. O. NOW OCCUPYING ITS NEW HOME

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 9.—Uncle Sam moved his postal headquarters in New Haven from the old building to the new federal building opposite the Central Green, and close by city hall, today. The new marble building has cost close to a million and a half dollars. The brownstone, old fashioned building in Church street, saw fifty years of service, and having been sold it will be torn down by individuals who have bought portions of the site.

Transfer of the postal equipment will be made tonight and business begun from the new office, Monday morning. During the fortnight the United States district court, the revenue offices and government departments moved from the old to the new building. The exterior marble of the new building, a pinkish white from Tennessee, was the selection of former President W. H. Taft, after a disagreement in a local committee over material.

## NO DESIRE TO IMPRESS WILL BY VIOLENCE

Washington, Aug. 9.—Leaders of the 16 organizations of the railroad employees united today in a "definite assertion that they had no desire, and have had none, 'to impress upon the public by violence or by threat,' their proposal that the railroads be nationalized under tripartite control.

Declaring that the requests of the men that living costs be reduced or their wages increased, was aside from the question of the future disposition of the railroad, the labor leaders said that if President Wilson and Congress did not meet this request the men would "have to try to find another solution."

I believe, too, that the more ex-

# PARIS REPORT STATES PERSHING IS ORDERED TO RETURN TO STATES

Secretary Baker and General March Deny Statement Emanating From French Capital—Report He Has Cancelled Visits.

Paris, Aug. 9.—It is reported here today that General Pershing has been recalled suddenly, to the United States, and that he may even abandon his visit to King Albert of Belgium, planned for Sunday.

Secretary Baker and General March, chief of staff, said today they knew nothing of any order recalling General Pershing to the United States. White House officials said they had not been advised that such an order had gone forward.

## NINE BROADWAY THEATRES SHUT; ACTORS STRIKE

New York, Aug. 9.—Nine playhouses in the Broadway theatrical district have been closed, three are presenting abbreviated programs while seven have been able to defy the strike of the Actors Equity Association and give their advertised bills with complete casts. This in effect, was the status today of the latest "labor" trouble to make an appearance in New York. In addition to the theatres that are closed, it was estimated that the rehearsals of 30 plays were being held up.

Both the actors and the managers were firm in their intention to fight it out to the bitter end. The managers announced that suits would be brought against the actors individually for breaking contracts.

## PICTURES FORD A GENTLE SOUL; HE LOVED BIRDS

Mount Clemens, Mich., Aug. 9.—Strong disclaimer that there was anything anarchistic in the utterances of Henry Ford, who is suing the Chicago Daily Tribune for \$100,000 damages on a charge of libel, was made today by Attorney Neil E. Reid, his counsel.

Attorney Reid took three articles by Ford introduced by the Tribune and argued that they contained only the sentiments of a Christian gentleman with a horror of war. The lawyer pictured Mr. Ford as a kindly man with a love of birds and flowers and his fellowmen—none whose life ambition was to leave the world a better and happier place to live in than he found it, yet one who, when his country was at war, devoted every energy, and every resource to answer his country's need.

William T. Hosner for the Tribune, replied:

"If Henry Ford had remained in the field where he made so conspicuous a success there would have been no lawsuit. As a manufacturer he rendered a great service to his country. Along in 1916 he made a terrible mistake, when he concluded to leave the field which he ornamented for an arena where he did not belong, to pose as an educator."

## EXCESSES REPORTED FALSE.

Berne Aug. 9.—An official Rumanian statement declares that reports of excesses by Rumanian troops in Hungary are false according to a despatch received here from Bucharest.

## MERIDEN MAN KILLED.

Washington Aug. 9.—An army casualty list today contained the name of a Meriden man killed in action.

## NO DUAL KINGDOM

Paris, Aug. 9.—The report that a union between Hungary and Rumania in the form of a dual kingdom was being planned has been formally denied, a Berne despatch received here today says.

## ARREST MAN NEWARK WANTS FOR ROBBERY

Nicholas LaMorte, a man wanted in Newark for robbery, was arrested in Bridgeport last night and arraigned in the City court this morning. The case was continued until Monday morning under \$500 bonds. It is alleged that LaMorte robbed his brother's saloon in Newark, and secured \$100 and a ring.

## STUDY PETROLEUM DETAILS.

Mexico City, Friday, Aug. 8.—Two new commissions charged with the study of the details of petroleum legislation were named in the Chamber of Deputies.

## GRANT INCREASE.

Washington Aug. 9.—Increased transfer charges at Boston were granted by the I. C. C. today to the Clyde Steamship Company and denied to the Eastern Steamship Lines.

## DISEASE APPEARS THREATENING TO BLIND CATTLE

100 Head Stricken in Seven Towns—Farmers Warned to Watch For Weeping Eyes.

Outbreak of a highly contagious eye disease threatening blindness to cattle has been reported to District Commissioner of Domestic Animals Charles L. Colton from West Suffolk, East Granby, Granby, Windsor, Lebanon and Franklin. Upwards of 100 head are affected. Farmers are being warned not to buy, or sell, cattle with weeping eyes.

Technically, the disease is known as contagious conjunctivitis, epizootic keratitis, keratitis contagiosa, and, in the West, as "weeping disease." It should not be confused with frequent attacks of pink eye, more or less prevalent among cattle during the summer months.

Symptoms of the disease begin with lachrymation in either or both eyes, becoming more profuse with pus, purifying swelling of the lids, inflammation of the membranes surrounding the eyes, extending in extreme cases to the eyeball itself, which at first assumes a milky appearance. Inflammatory products gradually streak it until the eye presents an asate-like appearance. Opacity increases until total blindness appears. According to Commissioner Colton, inflammation and swelling may continue until the eyeball ruptures and its removal becomes necessary.

The condition is very contagious and seems to be spread by flies from one cow to another. The commissioner is recommending to farmers that in the event of the disease appearing in any cow of their herds, the affected cow be immediately isolated and every cow in the herd treated. Contagiousness is conveyed from the eye during the day and turning them out at night will be found beneficial, he says. As a preventative, he recommends an application of 5 per cent. argyrol morning and night, or a 10 per cent. solution once a day for uninfected cases.

Owing to the peculiarity of the disease, cows may become permanently blind in one or both eyes and recover complete sight in three weeks to three months, or may remain permanently blind. Dr. Colton advises that veterinarians is advised for cattle known to be actually infected.

## SEN. BRANDEGEE MEMBER OF BODY PROBING MEXICO

Washington Aug. 9.—Determined to uncover the whole story of the relations between the United States and Mexico, including facts of Mexican infringements on American rights during recent years, the three members of the sub-committee named yesterday by Chairman Lodge of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today were preparing plans for their work. The sub-committee, consisting of Senators Fall, of New Mexico, and Brandegee, of Connecticut, Republicans, and Smith of Arizona, Democrats, was appointed under authority granted by a resolution adopted in the Senate and of which Senator King of Utah was chairman.

While the investigation by the sub-committee will go into every phase of the Mexican situation and will take many months to complete it was expected that only primary features would be dealt with pending disposition of the treaty with Germany. Tentative plans include hearings to be held at points along the border as members of the committee will get first hand information concerning any and all acts of the governments of Mexico and its citizens in derogation of the rights of the United States and its citizens.

## TWO LICENSED TO SELL MILK BY COMMISSION

Members of the City Medical Milk Commission have issued two licenses to distributors in the city to sell certified milk.

This was announced at a meeting of the committee held this morning when re-organization was completed for the coming year.

Dr. Fessenden L. Day was named as chairman; City Health Officer Dr. W. H. Brown was named as secretary and the other members of the commission were Dr. J. H. Beck, Dr. H. E. Waterhouse and Dr. C. Y. Calvin.

The program for the coming year was mapped out and includes a monthly inspection by two commissioners of all registered dairies. Requirements for a license to sell certified milk are that cattle must have withstood the tuberculin test given by a veterinarian, representative of the commission; all dairy employees must pass a physical examination monthly and laboratory samples of the milk must be taken twice weekly.

Public revocation of license is the penalty for failure to comply with the regulations and to meet the requirements.